

What is Storm Water?

Storm water comes from the precipitation that flows across the ground or pavement when it rains or when snow and ice melt. The water seeps into the ground or flows into our storm drains. These are the drains you see at street corners or low points on the sides of your streets. The water that flows into the drains is called storm water runoff. Storm water runoff is a concern because of the pollutants it may carry as it is conveyed to the nearest body of water—such as a local stream, pond, harbor, or ocean beach.



Unlike water that goes into our sanitary sewer system—from our showers and toilets, for example—storm water, and all that it is carrying, is not treated before being discharged to our surrounding water bodies.



Why Is Storm Water Pollution a Problem?

Storm water pollution can harm fish & other aquatic wildlife, kill native vegetation, destroy aquatic habitats, and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.

Furthermore, the nutrients carried by storm water or released into surface waters through decomposition may cause undesirable algae and vegetative growth.

Substances carried by storm water that are considered to be pollutants are:

- Sediment, trash & debris
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals
- Soap and paint products from outdoor maintenance activities
- Pesticides and fertilizers from lawns and gardens
- Viruses, bacteria, and nutrients from pet waste and failing septic systems



What Impact Does My Business Have On Storm Water & What Can I Do?

Properly maintain dumpsters:

- Cover dumpsters to prevent insects, animals, and rainwater from getting in
- Keep the area around the dumpster clear of trash and debris and do not overfill it
- Make sure cleanout plug has not been removed
- Call your trash hauler to replace a leaking dumpster



Pick up litter and sweep parking lots and sidewalks:

- Litter from shoppers can be reduced by providing and maintaining trash cans and butt collectors. If you see that you have a problem, use signage as a reminder



NOTICE

PLACE CIGARETTES,
CIGARS, AND ASHES
IN RECEPTACLES



- Sweep sidewalks and parking lots on a regular basis. **DO NOT hose down sidewalks or parking lots**



- Always use licensed companies for cleaning & rubbish removal

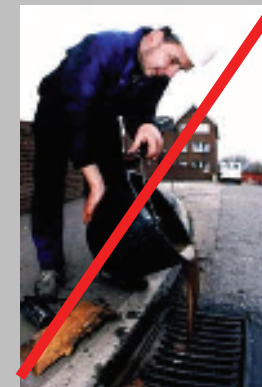
Furthermore....

Don't over water landscaping shrubs and grass:

- **DO NOT over irrigate grounds.** Excess watering of grass and ornamental shrubs not only weakens them and wastes water; it also sends landscaping chemicals and nutrients down into our storm drains

Don't allow wash water to run off premises:

- When you must wash your windows, sidewalk, floor mats or parking lot, **you should not discharge the wash water off your property**
- Make sure outside contractors have proper disposal permits, and use drop-cloths for painting and sandblasting. **DO NOT let wash water enter the street or storm drains**



Never pour leftover wash water, oil, floor sweepings or other debris into storm drains

- **DO NOT dump any sweepings or liquid waste on the ground, in the street, or into a storm drain**
- Even materials that seem harmless—like latex paint, mop water, or biodegradable cleaners—can damage the environment

- Pour mop water into a janitorial or mop sink. **Do not** pour it onto a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street



- Contact your town's sanitation department to find out what is acceptable for general trash disposal. For the removal of hazardous chemicals or materials, contact a **licensed hauler**